

Muscogee

Nation News

Jan. 24, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 2

Official Semi-Monthly Publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Tiger responds to Kialegee casino

River Spirit Casino in Tulsa to expand with hotel



Pictured above are Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left) and National Council Speaker Sam Alexander at a press conference Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 at the Tribal Construction Building located on the capitol complex.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Calling it a “clarification” to the publicity surrounding the planned development of a casino by the Kialegee Tribal Town, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger announced in a press conference Jan. 16 that, “It was a complicated issue of tribal jurisdiction over a Muscogee (Creek) allotment and the procedures to obtain gaming on that allotment while maintaining a good working relationship with our Oklahoma neighbors.”

Saying that he was sensitive to the plight of tribal towns and their desire for economic development, Tiger cautioned, “However, the cure

to the problem is not accomplished by allowing a casino to be built in Broken Arrow that is under the jurisdiction and authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation without the consent of this nation and without following all proper procedures that would allow for gaming on that site.”

Neither the National Indian Gaming Commission or the Bureau of Indian Affairs has rendered a formal opinion yet.

Tiger pointed out that the tribal Realty Trust Services had not received an application for a Bureau of Indian Affairs business lease, and tribal gaming commission had not given a written approval for a gaming license for

the location. His personal position was that the land should not be used as a tribal casino without consent from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Tiger intends to consult with the National Council to determine how the nation will proceed.

The Kialegee application for a casino was first submitted to the National Indian Gaming Commission years ago, according to landowner Marcella Giles, as reported in the *Tulsa World*.

Since then, the the lands’ legal status and the planned tribal casino have been in question. With outside investment, the tribal town has proceeded with land preparation, with the intent of building a temporary structure.

Community groups have formed to oppose the casino and the Broken Arrow School Board is on record with its opposition. The city council has requested the state attorney general for a determination on the legality of the casino.

In the press conference, Tiger said the only elected official to contact him has been Rep. Sullivan and that he provided the Congressman with a basic orientation on what he called, “Indian 101.”

The MCN, Tiger added, is willing to work with the Kialegee Tribal Town on economic development for its community. Tiger has also met with Broken Arrow mayor Mike Lester. Both

the town and the tribe are cooperating in examining the legal situation.

Tiger confirmed that there is an agreement in place for the River Spirit Casino in west Tulsa regarding any other casino projects, but would not elaborate. The Broken Arrow community has vocally opposed the casino and has the support of congressman John Sullivan and an inquiry by Sen. Tom Coburn.

According to Tiger, the Muscogee Nation is looking at ideas to expand the River Spring facility by adding a hotel, “We have plans to expand what we have now at 81st and River side. Those plans won’t be delayed, they will continue on.”

State of the Nation Address set for Jan. 28

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger will deliver his first State of the Nation address Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012.

This event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 as an agenda item to the National Council’s Quarterly Session agenda.

In order to accommodate the anticipated crowd in attendance, the session will be held at the Multipurpose Building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex located in Okmulgee.

Tiger will formally address the legislative body, the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and provide information on the current state of tribal affairs, including progress made by the tribe since the last update in 2011.

Tiger will further outline his goals and objectives for the initial phases of his administration as well as sharing his long term plans for the future.

The event is ordained in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution as an annual function of the tribe’s chief executive.

Tiger was elected in November 2011 and sworn into office Jan. 7, 2012

before a crowd of thousands at the MCN Multipurpose Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the fourth largest tribal nation in the United States with jurisdiction in Eastern and East Central Oklahoma and an enrolled membership of over 72,000.

For more information on the event, please contact Edwin Marshall, Public Relations Coordinator at (918) 732-7617 or email at emarshall@muscogeenation-nsn.org

2012 MCN Challenge Bowl set for Feb.

Media Release
MCN Challenge Bowl Committee

OKMULGEE — Dates, times and location for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s 2012 Challenge Bowl were announced this week.

The annual competition will be held at Trinity Baptist Church located at 830 W. Ozark Street in Morris, Okla., where Native student teams representing public schools, chartered communities and tribal towns will test their knowledge of all things Muscogee (Creek).

The Challenge Bowl features subjects ranging from current events, geography, language, history, government to tradition/culture. The 2012 dates for the competition are:

High School – Feb. 9, 2012
Middle School – Feb. 16, 2012

Elementary – Feb. 23, 2012

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger stated, “The Muscogee Nation sets a standard of information at the highest level using our culture, language and government as the guidepost to teach our children. We believe that teaching these standards to our children will form the foundation for their future. We are planting the ‘Long-Rooted Grass’ within our children so that whatever comes up against them, the roots of their people will hold them fast and steady.”

For more information, contact Raven Bruner at (918) 732-7841 or go to www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and click on the Challenge Bowl link

MNN 2 - EXECUTIVE

Beavers named ‘inspiring couple’



MNN 4 - LOCAL NEWS

MCN staff recognized as Child Development Associates



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And Still the Waters Run: Ms. Virginia



MNN 6 - FEATURE

Langan retires after half-century



MNN 7 - EDUCATION

JOM Career Day offers career introductions





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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@musco-geenation-nsn.gov



Beavers named 'inspiring couple'

Former Principal Chief and wife set example

Media Release
KOTV News Channel 6

TULSA — R. Perry and Mariam Beaver were recently nominated for the most inspiring couple award. This contest was hosted through News on 6 by the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative. Nominations were received and semi-finalists were selected.

They need your help to win: go to <http://www.newson6.com/Global/category.asp?c=226081> and vote for Perry and Mariam Beaver.

Perry and Mariam met when she was in nursing school and he had just returned from playing with the Green Bay Packers. They married in 1968 and have supported one another for over 43 years. Following a successful collegiate career and being coached by the legendary Vince Lombardi, Perry took his football moves and turned them into coaching gold by building the Jenks High School football team into a dominant leader in their division. Working as a nurse, Mariam never missed a game and together they supported young athletes and students for over 30 years. Perry was named to Native American Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame.

Upon retiring from coaching in 1991, Perry was elected as the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek)



Nation which he faithfully served for eight years. After suffering a stroke, Mariam became his private nurse.

Even though Perry now suffers from diabetes and needs regular kidney dialyses, as grandparents, they help

with the grandkids. They never miss birthdays or special event...they are inspiring for the support they provide each other and their family.

Perry and Mariam's Advice for new couples:

"Respect one another and always accept your spouse for who they are; never try to change them."

The winning inspiring couple will be recognized at *Forever. For Real.* Feb. 4, 2012 at the Tulsa Convention Center; they will also receive a two-night stay at Lago Vista Bed and Breakfast. Five semi-finalists will receive a \$100 gift card to Restaurant Equipment and Supply co.

The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI) has existed since 1999 and has become a national program model. State and national leaders have watched the broad-based, innovative design and statewide service delivery strategies become implemented and refined over the past several years. The Initiative was developed and gained momentum under former Governor Frank Keating and continues to grow and prosper, with new plans and visions on the horizon for the coming years.

Letters to the editor

Citizen thanks administration for transportation

OKMULGEE — Hello, this note is to thank Chief Ellis for the use of the bus for our trip to Chickasaw Nation.

Thank you, Jackson Barnett for a wonderful time and thanks to our bus driver, Cindie, and our escort, Butch, for the guiding you gave us to get to our destination; it was a wonderful trip!

The elders appreciate the wonderful day.

— Esther Harley Grona
Okmulgee Indian Community

District Court filings for December 2011

The District Court filings from Dec. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2011 are as follows:

Criminal Misdemeanor:
MCN v. Richard Chase

MCN v. Michelle Billie
MCN v. Cheryl Perez
MCN v. Della Perez
MCN v. Hoovey Perez Sr.
MCN v. Jimmy Roller

Traffic:
MCN v. Meri Piquet
MCN v. Meri Piquet
MCN v. Linda West
MCN v. Linda West

Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
Ct. 2: Obstructing an Officer in the Performance of Duties
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
Ct. 1: Obstruction of Justice
Ct. 1: Obstruction of Justice
Ct. 1: Obstruction of Justice
Ct. 1: Public Intoxication

DUS
Expired Tag
No Insurance
Duties in Event of Accident

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
HOUSING DIVISION (successor in
interest to THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CREEK NATION OF
OKLAHOMA),

Plaintiff,

v.

ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and
TOBY LYNN SHEETS,

Defendant.

Case No. CV-2011-203

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and
TOBY LYNN SHEETS.

GREETINGS:

Take notice that you and each of you have been sued in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee Division, in the above entitled and numbered cause by the Plaintiff, and that you must answer the Complaint filed by Plaintiff in the office of the undersigned Court Clerk on or before the 2nd day of March, 2012, or judgment against you and a decree in Plaintiff's favor will be rendered accordingly.

You are ordered to appear at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, OK, on the 2nd day of February, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. for a forcible entry and detainer hearing and to remain subject to the call of the court until discharged.

Dated this 28th day of December, 2011.

Court Clerk
By: Sharon McIlwain, Deputy

ENGLISH & GAITHER, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Henryetta, OK

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of:

BARBARA JEAN TONEY,

Petitioner,

vs.

GREGORY VINCENT ROBERTS,

Respondent.

Case No. DV-2012-04

Before the Honorable Gregory Bigler,
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Gregory Vincent Roberts

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-04, styled in re the Marriage of Barbara Jean Toney, Petitioner and Gregory Vincent Roberts, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the Petition filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 12th day of April, 2012 at 10 o'clock a.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the Petition being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his Petition.

Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of January, 2013

Dana Jewett, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Sharon McIlwain
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Reintegration Program Coat Drive

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration program is still taking donations of new or gently used coats. Donations can be dropped off at the MCN Reintegration program or arrangements can be made to have them picked up.

For more information, please contact Becky Billingsly at (800) 259-1059 or (918) 652-2676.

Summer Youth 2012

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. You may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776. No fax applications will be accepted. Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Rekindle the Flame Revival

GRAYSON — Revival hosted by Fred Lowe at the New Covenant Tabernacle on Hwy 266, between Morris and Dewar, Friday Feb. 3 - 4.

Friday services begin at 7 p.m., and Saturday services begin at 2 p.m.

Speakers are Robert Lay, Redman Wolf Sr., Redman Wolf, Jr., and Matt Haynes. Possible bands will be performing. Supper will be served after the 2 p.m., service Saturday. Prayer requests are welcome.

For more information, contact Fred Lowe at (918)-843-2265 or Robert Lay, Jr., (918) 652-4350.

Deer Memorial Service

HOLDENVILLE — Memorial service for Lyle K. Deer is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012. The services will be held at 4 p.m., at Salt Creek United Methodist Church, in Holdenville, weather permitting.

Message to be delivered by Rev. Alvin Deer.

Fourth Annual NWS Storm-Spotter Training

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management, Okmulgee County Emergency Management and the City of Okmulgee Emergency Management are sponsoring the Storm-Spotter Training, to be presented by the National Weather Service-Tulsa office on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., at the MCN Complex in the Mound Building.

Everyone is invited to attend. CLEET hours will be provided.

For more information, contact James Nichols at (918)-732-7891 or email at jnichols@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

OKMULGEE — February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention program is asking Muscogee teens to take the pledge to always treat their dating partners with respect.

Teens should post the pledge to their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to coworkers and text the pledge to friends.

“Break The Silence. Be Part of the Solution.”

For more information, or to request a presentation about dating violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1-800-521-5432.

Spaghetti Benefit Dinner

TULSA — The Tulsa Indian Club Princess Committee is hosting a Spaghetti Benefit Dinner Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012.

The dinner will take place from 6 -9 p.m. at the Mayo Building, located at 420 S. Main St., in Tulsa.

The \$6-a-plate dinner includes spaghetti, bread, salad, dessert and drink. Donations are also accepted. Proceeds will benefit the Tulsa Indian Club Princess Committee.

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative hosts herb class

OKMULGEE — Herb grower Richard Belcher will teach an evening class on growing herbs beginning at 6 p.m., Tue., Jan. 31 at Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, located at 100 E. 7th, Suite 101.

Belcher, has been growing herbs for four years, will offer information on growing herbs which are commonly used in the kitchen, such as rosemary, thyme, parsley, and dill.

Belcher is the manager of the Community Food Project (CFP) in McIntosh County and part of his work includes overseeing Eufaula Indian Garden.

Please RSVP for the herb training session by calling Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative at (918) 756-5915 or (918) 759-0817 or email sberryhill@mvsokofood.org

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk

OKMULGEE — “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes” is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918)-813-6900 or email tqalls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

MWLI meeting set for Jan. 28

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Women’s Leadership Initiative (MWLI) will meet Saturday, Jan. 28 at the College of the Muscogee Nation, located at 1200 Hwy. Loop 56 in Okmulgee from 1-4 p.m., for the first meeting of 2012.


MWLI was established in March 2009 to bring Mvskoke women of all ages together to fellowship and celebrate the richness of our Mvskoke culture.

The meeting will cover goals, organization and plans for the future including preparation for the annual Leadership Awards event to be held in March.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Awards which recognize and honor the strength and leadership of Mvskoke women. Anyone may submit a nomination and the nominee must be an enrolled member of the MCN.

For nomination forms, contact Cherrah Ridge at (918)-520-9161, fax (918)-445-4947 or email cherrahridge@gmail.com. The awards dinner will be Mar. 26, with the location to be announced.

Southern Regional Office February Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services (appointment only) Citizenship 10am-3pm	2 Social Services 9am-11am	3	4
5	6 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	7 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	8 National Council 9am-4pm	9	10 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	11
12	13 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	14  Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	15 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services 9am-3pm	16	17	18
19	20 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	21 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	22 National Council 9am-4pm	23	24 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	25
26	27 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	28 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	29 National Council 9am-4pm	-Employment & Training here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1155 -Food Distribution open daily (405) 452-1175 -Housing here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1100/1106 -Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1059 -WIC (405) 452-1300		

Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Theme of the party: _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

School: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____



Birth:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of Hospital: _____

Weight: _____ pounds _____ ounces _____ inches

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____



Announcements:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____

Please attach announcement



PLEASE SEND PHOTO(S) To: MCN Communications Dept. • P.O. Box 580 • Okmulgee, OK 74447

MCN Child Care staff recognized as Child Development Associates



MCN Submission/Office of Child Care

Pictured left to right are: Misty Ray, Okmulgee CDC, Carol Frye, Okmulgee CDC, Keselar Mitchell, Tulsa CDC, Amy Hightower, Sapulpa CDC, Sarah Chisholm, Sapulpa CDC, and Cheryl Bush, Supervisor at the Sapulpa CDC.

Media Release
MCN Office of Child Care

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care wants to congratulate and announce that the following Child Development Center staff has been awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential in recognition of outstanding

work with young children. The Council for Professional Recognition in Washington DC awards credentials to early childhood educators who demonstrate the ability to constructively work with young children in group settings. The CDA is a nationally

recognized credential for excellence in Early Childhood Education. The staff attended 120 hours of classroom studies and was evaluated while working in the classroom, and was given a written and oral test by a representative appointed by the Council.

Checotah students attend “A Christmas Carol” at Tulsa PAC



Submission/Tia Shelby

Checotah Middle School's Smarty Cats Book Club & Reading class traveled to Tulsa Performing Arts Center (PAC) to watch a live performance of A Christmas Carol in Dec. The students read the timeless story over the past month and Creek Nation Casino of Checotah donated \$500 to help purchase tickets for 40 students to see and enjoy this Christmas classic. They all had a great time.

2012 TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

POSTER THEME: “Qualities of a Healthy Relationship”, may focus on one or more qualities of healthy relationships. Go to www.cdc.gov/chooserespect, click Healthy vs Unhealthy Relationships for qualities of a healthy relationship.

ELIGIBILITY: Muscogee (Creek) Nation youth ages 12-18.
(Must be enrolled member of Muscogee (Creek) Nation.)

PRIZES: Grand Prize: \$200.00 2 Runners Up: \$100.00 each

JUDGING CRITERIA: Judging will be based on **originality, creativity, and development and reflection of the theme.** As a resource, visit www.breakthecycle.org and www.cdc.gov/chooserespect.org.

RULES:

- Submitted artwork/poster should be no larger than 24x36 inches. **Use vertical orientation.** Do not put your name on the front of the poster.
- Original, freehand artwork** in any medium, color or black and white. Keep in mind pencils appear light. **Computer graphics and copyrighted figures NOT accepted. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the artwork. No cut and paste. NO SPELLING ERRORS.**
- Only one entry per person, and each entry must be the work of only one student.
- All entries become the property of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program. We reserve the right to use the poster for the purpose of dating violence education and promotion. A picture of the winning student may appear in the media and/or newspaper/website/etc.
- Posters may not be folded or rolled. They must be mailed flat and protected by cardboard. Packages must be labeled “Do Not Bend” on both sides. Mail posters to: **Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children & Family Services P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447** or contact Mitzi Pope at (918) 732-7892 if you choose to deliver them.
- All **entries must be received by January 31, 2012.** Judging will take place in February, and the winners will be notified during the month of February as well. The winning poster will appear in the Muscogee Nation Newspaper.

Students invited to register for language fair

Media Release
Sam Noble Museum

NORMAN—Students of Native American languages from preschool to high school age are encouraged to enter the 10th annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. Participants in grades pre-K through 12 will demonstrate their language skills as groups or individuals in the spoken language and language in song categories.

Other competition categories include poster art and book categories, open to grades three through 12; language with PowerPoint presentation and film/video categories, both open to sixth-through 12th-graders; a language advocacy essay category, open to grades nine through 12; and a language masters performance category for grades nine through 12, designed to showcase the language skills of students who have grown up speaking a Native American language. A new category for 2012 is poetry writing and performance; it is open to all ages. Registration deadline is March 12.

The competition draws more than 600 participants from across Oklahoma as well as neighboring states competing in as many as 27 Native American languages. Pre-K through fifth-grade competitions will take place on Monday, April 2; sixth- through 12th-grade competitions are set for Tuesday, April 3. The top three award-winners in each age group and category will receive a trophy that can be displayed at their school or tribal center. Every student who participates will receive a medallion and Language Fair T-shirt. For the 10th anniversary, every student also will receive a 2012 calendar with poster art for the last 10 years in addition to other language prizes. Fair participants will be honored

at the state capitol on Monday, April 9, and all students and programs are invited to attend.

A panel of elders and teachers from several different tribes will judge the spoken language and language in song competitions. Native artists will judge the posters based on creativity and use of this year's theme, “Language in My Heart.” In addition, Native authors will judge the book and poetry competitions.

To register and for additional information, visit <http://nal.snomnh.ou.edu/onaylf>. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 12. PowerPoint presentations, films, books, poetry, and poster entries must be received by March 16. No late entries will be accepted.

To have forms sent by mail, or for additional information, participants may contact the museum's Native American Languages department at (405) 325-7588 or by email at ONAYLF@snomnh.ou.edu. The 2011 Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair is made possible, in part, by the Boeing Company and the Cyril Foundation.

The Sam Noble Museum is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus at Timberdell Road and Chautauqua Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors 65 and up, and \$3 for youth ages 6 to 17. Children ages 5 and under are free. Discounts are available for military personnel and their immediate families. There is no additional admission fee to see Warrior Spirits.

For more information about the museum, call (405) 325-4712, or visit the museum's website at www.snomnh.ou.edu.

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

MUSKOKE
NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE

PRINTED BY WIYO PUBLISHING COMPANY
IN MAROON HARDCOPY LEATHER BOUND,
RED RIBBON WITH GOLD LEAF GILDING

\$20. EACH
OR MORE THAN 10 = \$15. EACH

CONTACT: STEVE RANDALL
(918) 704-3738

And Still the Waters Run: *Ms. Virginia*

George Windes
CMCA Historian

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — One day when a celestial encyclopedia is written on Muscogee Creek people, a special space will be reserved for Ms. Virginia Thomas. I can’t say for sure, but I suspect a testimonial concerning Ms. Thomas will read something like this:

A high official of the Johnson O’Malley Program (which assists Indian children from three years old through grade 12) will say of Ms. Thomas and her longtime leadership of the national JOM organization:

“A very dynamic lady, but also very tiring: she wanted everything done in a minute! She had lots of natural charisma, was well-spoken and really cared about Native American youth. She’d run circles around Natives half her age, even out wrestle them if need be. I’ve never known anyone quite like her.”

There is but little space to dwell upon the family and childhood of Virginia Thomas. Suffice to say Virginia was born in California to Muscogee Creek citizens Johnson and Lillian Thomas, their final girl child.

She grew up in the loving home and environment of one of the noblest of Creek families, blessed with intelligence, exposed to Biblical principles, and having considerable musical ability. Important also was the wisdom of her mother Lily. One of her many familial sayings, “Remember, a little kindness goes a long, long way.”

After graduating high school Ms. Virginia headed for California State University in San Diego to get her BA. Said pole hurdled, she accepted a teaching position on the remote Pala Indian Reservation teaching indigenous children. Before she could begin teaching it was necessary to hose out the old schoolhouse her impoverished students would occupy.

She soon was a legend; complete with her Volkswagon bus often used in transporting Native youth to see a Calif., they had only previously heard about. The ocean beaches were a favorite destination.

Eventually Virginia’s career would take her to the “North to the Future” state, Alaska. She would be involved with and chair the Alaska Native Education Council (ANEC).

Thus a “microburst” of conferences, student action plans, study groups, information networks, and JOM assignments would occupy all her time.

There were also ties to the Alaska State Department of Education. She left Alaska for Okmulgee in 2000.

In Okmulgee, Virginia is manager of the Johnson O’Malley Program, for the tribe and as a national venue. As such, she is responsible for the JOM school programs, the MCN Scholarship Pageant and the JOM budget. The linked JOM applications, enrollment forms, academic incentives and important annual reports also fall under her umbrella.

But more importantly, Virginia found family members in Okla. Her care giving for Aunt Nora Nelson and Aunt Katie Smith will always be acknowledged by her grateful family.

She became their protector, their voice, their advocate, and they loved her for it. It was probably during this time Virginia’s famed Christmas letters began to arrive encouraging all of her kin. They continue today, a blessing in stories and remembrances of Christmas past.

One event very close to Virginia has been her leadership over the Miss/Jr. Miss Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant, which is held annually in Henryetta.

The skills, talents and beauty of the young Muscogee women is acknowledged and voted upon. The young winners represent the MCN at many varied events through the calendar year.

Virginia’s supreme directional control is “sterling” in her commitment to the same.

Around the first of Feb., of this year, President Barack Obama re-ap-



MNN/Archives
Virginia Thomas, or Ms. Virginia (pictured above) as she is known throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (center top) has served the Johnson O’Malley program for over 39 years and was appointed to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education by both the Bush and Obama Administrations. Pictured at left are her parents Johnson Bailey Thomas and Lillian Freeman Thomas and paternal grandmother, Sarah Tiger Thomas (below).

pointed Virginia Thomas to NACIE, the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (which had 15 members). She was initially appointed by President George W. Bush, in April 2004.

NACIE members advise the Secretary of Education

on issues such as funding, administration and the development of regulations and administrative policies tied to all Indian education programs. Virginia’s excellent work on the JOM program, which services 47 school districts and 17,000 students, made her an excellent choice for the appointment. She has served JOM for 39 years, in a multitude of positions, while earning numerous awards.

The famed artist Van Gogh said once in a letter to a young friend, “I find it just as interesting to paint with words as with a brush.”

I really agree with his heartfelt analogy, but find it difficult to put in words “the rainbow, the kaleidoscope” that is Virginia Thomas. For all the service you give, dear cousin... MVTO!

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com



Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE —The new leadership for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been sworn in and has taken office. A new administration means new folks running things around the tribal complex. A lot of new faces have shown up in the tribal headquarters. There are some huge challenges facing those new directors and staff and those jobs won't be easy. Good luck and do a good job for the tribe.

Most everyone has heard of the big battle in Broken Arrow over the proposed casino by the Kialegee Tribal Town. The status of the land the casino would be built on, land leased to the Kialegee, is a big question. The Town King of the Kialegee Tribal Town hasn't spoken but issued a written statement calling the casino the "epitome of the Congressional vision for Indian economic development. This is one of the very reasons the Indian Gaming Act was enacted."

Is that project legal or not according to National Indian Gaming Commission? That federal body is reviewing whether the land is eligible for gambling and whether or not it could be a violation of federal law. The Kialegee legal guys say that the federal law is advisory, but that has got to be wrong, since that act governs all tribal gaming nationwide. So far, the only development has been to make everyone else mad at them. Not a very good start for an industry that depends on public support and patronage. To misquote a line from the movie 'Field of Dreams', "...build it and they may NOT come..."

We now have a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Hotline. The number to access is (Outside of the Complex) dial 918-549-Creek (2733); (Inside the Complex) dial Creek (2733). (Pretty nifty, huh?) The Hotline went into effect, Dec. 2, 2011. I was thinking of calling it and asking, "Quick! Where can I get some emergency fry bread?" but I suppose they have better things to do.

The national elections are coming up this fall. President Barack Obama presented a bunch of new initiatives at the White House Tribal Nations Conference in December. Those were met with a very positive response from assembled tribal leaders, so he probably will get some votes from many Native Americans for those announcements. We have yet to hear anything from the Republicans who are duking it out for their nomination. Most of Indian Country has been in the Democrats' camp in past years. But, there are a good number of Indians who are Republicans, too. Let's see how that shakes out.

Have you recovered from the holiday feasts yet? Let your belt out a notch or two? Don't feel too bad, I'm sure there are hundreds more just like you (us). Time to get on the treadmill and try to work some of those cookies and fudge off your middle. Come on, muffin tops, it's for your own good.

Happy 2012!



Langan retires after half-century

Muscogee woman serves 50 years in federal service

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

STILLWATER — She began her employment with the federal government as a temporary worker in 1961.

She stayed with a federal career and five decades later, Muscogee citizen, Julia Langan, stepped down from her post as the Superintendent of the Pawnee Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on Jan 13, 2012.

Langan held that post for 24 years and was one of the first women to hold such a title at the BIA. Currently, for the southern plains agencies, all the superintendents are women.

Langan's Muscogee family is from the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. She shared that she was raised on a farm outside Okemah where her family still resides.

At her going away party in Stillwater, she talked about her 50 years of federal service. She had some fond memories of traveling and making acquaintances, "I've enjoyed it. I've been to a lot of places and I've met a lot of different people and if you've gone to Haskell, which I did and then you work for the BIA, if you don't know someone throughout the country, you know someone that knows someone throughout the country. It's been a beautiful experience. I've



MNN/Gary Fife

Julie Langan retired after over 50 years of service with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She is pictured at left and above with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief and long-time family friend George Tiger.

learned a lot, I've had fun, met some wonderful people. I've had a good career and got to do a lot of the things that normally you wouldn't get to do or see. I've got a lot of respect for the tribes that I've

worked with." For the tribal governments, "I have, particularly the tribes at the Pawnee agency. They didn't have very much and then, they got into the bingo business. A couple of the tribes are doing very well and they have built up their tribal headquarters. They have economic development programs going on and I've seen evolution come from not having very much to having a lot."

Langan saw a change in the way the government did business with tribes. The Indian Self Determination Act allowed the tribes to contract to perform those services themselves. The effect was to reduce BIA staff, Langan remembered, a big change in the attitude of the tribal governments,

"I think, at first, they found it hard to believe that we could let go. I always tried to be honest, to let them know what I could and what I couldn't do."

For Langan, it's memories of the Indian people that she will cherish the most, "The people I've met, the tribes, the individual tribal members, their characters and the people I've worked with, those are things that I won't forget."

As a legacy, Langan is happy to see things going well at the Pawnee agencies, "I would like to see that continue to develop and become a dominant force to deal with in Oklahoma, and that's what I'm looking forward to seeing."

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER & VETERAN AFFAIRS SERVICES OFFICE

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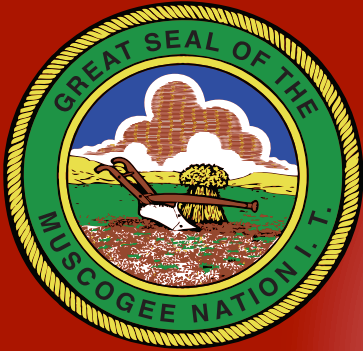
PRESENTS

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

NOVEMBER 11, 2011 – FEBRUARY 29, 2012



“During World War I and World War II, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States armed forces and used words from their traditional languages as weapons...America’s enemies never deciphered the coded messages they sent.”



Smithsonian Institution

EXHIBITION AT MUSCOGEE VETERANS BUILDING
For more information contact
Muscogee Tourism & Recreation: 918-732-7992

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with generous support from Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, the Smithsonian Women's Committee, and the AMB Foundation.

JOM Career Day offers career introductions

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — “We used to do it for high school, but they felt that it was a little bit too late. They wanted to do it earlier so we started targeting the middle school, so that they can find out what’s available to them and maybe something they’ve never thought of before.”

That was the idea for the Career Day sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Johnson-O’Malley educational support program, said Virginia Thomas, program manager. About 450 students from schools in the Muscogee Nation jurisdiction attended the event to get a better idea about possible career opportunities.

Representatives from a variety of careers from tribal health to state game wardens to helicopter emergency response teams were on hand to answer student’s questions about their professions. Students got to ask the professionals questions about topics such as academic preparation and even what kinds of salaries each job field offered. “We want them to know that these careers are available to them, and that they can start planning for scholarships in that area,” Thomas said, “If there’s a health area, if there’s something that they want to find out about scholarships then they can aim towards that, instead of waiting until the last minute.”

In past years, a main focus has been on higher education in colleges and universities. Those goals are still important, but Thomas pointed out that many students are not necessarily interested in those directions. Vocational opportunities and training have gained more interest in recent years.

Thomas said, “We’re also encouraging vocation. You see a lot of vocational jobs that are here from the OSU Tech. We know that it’s not their (the students) forte to go to a four-year



MNN/Gary Fife

Cherokee motivational speaker and holder of 10 Guinness Book of Records titles, Brian Jackson talks to students about their potential in their future careers. Jackson was also the keynote speaker at the JOM Career Day.

university or to a college, but they still would have a career in a technical college, so we’re showing them what’s out there.”

Brian Jackson, Cherokee motivational speaker and holder of 10 Guinness Book of Records titles was keynote speaker. Jackson was recognized by many of the attending students for his appearance on the popular TV program, “America’s Got Talent.”

His talk and demonstration of blowing up and exploding rubber hot water bottles with his lungs held their attention. Thomas said that Jackson was there, “To let them know that he shared a little about his life and what he came through. The struggles that he had, and it wasn’t very optimistic when he was their age and look where he is today.”

The MCN JOM program serves 47 school districts within the Creek Nation jurisdiction. It serves approximately 16,000 students in those schools. It provides technical assistance and coordination with each school district. The program has paid

for student college testing programs and such things as books and athletic shoes. JOM, Thomas noted, was to meet the special needs of Indian children, whatever those needs may be.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs had been the prime financial supporter of the JOM programs, but those funds have been cut in recent years. The tribe has taken up that financial slack, providing critical monetary supplements to keep the program going.

The success of JOM efforts could be measured in the enthusiasm of the 450 young people attending this career day. Many tables were mobbed by these middle school students who were lined up to ask questions.

But, another measure, Thomas shared, was in the return of many former students who were now working in JOM programs to help their younger peers, “We have actually hired former students of JOM, who’ve come back and worked for JOM programs. I have one student now, a former JOM student, and now she’s our activities coordinator.”

TU to host Native American Pre-Law Day March 3, 2012

Media Release
University of Tulsa College of Law

TULSA — The University of Tulsa College of Law will sponsor a Native American Pre-Law Day on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., to encourage Native American senior high school and early college students to consider a career in law.

Sessions will focus on how to prepare for law school, what law school is like (from student perspective), how to apply to law school, etc. Guests will also have an opportunity to observe a mock law class taught by Professor Bill Rice, Co-Director of Tulsa’s Native American Law Center.

American Indian college and senior high school students are invited to attend. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with travel costs for students outside easy driving distance of Tulsa.

Participants will have the opportunity to see whether law school is the right fit for them. They will learn how to prepare now for a future career in Law. Prominent Native American attorneys will discuss their backgrounds and careers, law school representatives will provide information about the law school admissions process and how to finance a legal educa-

tion, current Indian law students will tell what law school is really like, and Indian law professors will provide guidance on how to prepare for law school.

This workshop, which is funded by the Law School Admissions Council and co-hosted by Oklahoma City University School of Law, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the University of Tulsa College

of Law, is designed to heighten awareness about the numerous benefits associated with Discover-Law.org registration.

Space is limited, and registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Please register in advance. Walk-ins are welcomed only as space permits. email the information to lawadmissions@utulsa.edu or call (918) 631-2406 by Feb. 21, 2012.

Following the Native American Pre-Law Day, all attendees of the pre-law event are invited to tour the Enduring Spirit exhibit of Native American art and artifacts at Gilcrease Museum from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Shuttles will depart the TU campus at 4 p.m., for those who wish to be transported to and from the museum.

For more information, call (918) 631 - 2406.



College of the Muscogee Nation calls for public commentary for accreditation

Media Release
College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team rep-

resenting the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college via mail to:

Public Comment on College of

the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission’s Web Site at www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be in writing.

All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.



Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent

Children. Keepers of our tradition.

Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today. In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call “cuko” (home). Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.

For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Holdenville

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

HOLDENVILLE—Every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Jan. 17, 2012, the Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will be hosting educational seminars on cancer: prevention, early detection, survivorship and comfort/care. The project is subcontracted with Native American Cancer Research to conduct the Native Navigators and Cancer Continuum Project.

The project aims to increase cancer knowledge among the community participants, enhance the visibility and availability of the local Navigators who are available to help community members schedule screening appointments, carry out follow-up recommendations, and provide support and education for those diagnosed with cancer.

Trained patient navigators will conduct community-based cancer education seminars in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. All types of cancer will be covered and the workshops are open participation. A total of 24 hours of training will be offered.

The classes will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants will be evaluated pre- and post-seminar. A summary of results will be provided to the community and participants after the workshops are completed. In March the next education series will begin in another area of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation area.

For more information, please contact Kathy Cole at (918) 441-6048, Loretta Denny at (918) 441-6049 or Debra Isham, the Project Director at 1-855-623-1189.

Cancer Care Community Education Calendar
Time: 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays

Early’ Detection:
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012
Get on the Path to Breast Health

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012
Get on the Path to Colon Health

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012
Get on the Path to Lung Health

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012
Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012
Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Survivorship:
Tuesday, Feb. 14
Native American Cancer Education for Survivors

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012
Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012
Survivors’ Support Circles

Comfort/ Preventative Care:
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012
Wills & Advance Directive

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a \$10 gift card after each session for participation.

Summer Youth 2012

Accepting Applications: December 19 through March 2.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Youth Employment Program.

**To apply call 918 732.7775 or 7776
Or 1800 482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776**

Deadline to get all the paperwork in to the office is March 16, 2012
No fax applications will be accepted. Must be a member of a
Federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.



**“What lies behind us and
what lies before us, are
small matters compared
to what lies within us.”**